

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 17, 2010. Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 17 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11 and 15 to 17 are independent. Claims 15 to 17 are newly added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 6, 11, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0227647 (Gallacher) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0036790 (Nishiyama), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012134 (Calaway) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 7,418,702 (Tsao). Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway, Tsao and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0077097 (Parry). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway, Tsao and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0103885 (Hamada). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present claims concern a system that provides a unique user environment to a plurality of users who share usage of the same information and image processing apparatuses. In such a system, an “active session” for a user is one of a plurality of user sessions that allows a user to exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus can simultaneously provide, for each of a plurality of users who

simultaneously log-on to an operating system of the information processing apparatus, an environment, as an independent user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated.

Turning to specific claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a notifying method, carried out in an information processing apparatus to which a plurality of users, including first and second users, can simultaneously log-on, of notifying one of the plurality of users of information regarding an image processing apparatus which communicates with the information processing apparatus, wherein the information processing apparatus can provide, for each of the plurality of users, an environment, as a user session, in which a program desired by the user is activated, wherein one of the user sessions is an active session in which one of the plurality of users can display information on a display unit of the information processing apparatus using a first display program and can exclusively operate the display unit and the rest of the user sessions are a non-active session. The method comprises a receiving step of receiving the information regarding the image processing apparatus from the image processing apparatus when the active session is provided for the first user wherein the receiving step is started without waiting for a request from the first user; a specifying step of specifying a current active session from among the user sessions after the information regarding the image processing apparatus is received in the receiving step; an activating step of automatically activating a second display program in the current active session specified in the specifying step in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus received in the receiving step on the display unit occupied in the specified current active session; and a transmitting step

of transmitting, when the current active session specified in the specifying step is provided for the second user, the information received in the receiving step, not to a display program activated in the user session for the first user, which is a non-active session, but to the second display program automatically activated in the activating step; and a displaying step of displaying, in response to the transmitting step transmitting the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the specified current active session using the second display program.

Amended independent Claims 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17 are directed to an apparatus and a computer-readable memory medium, a method, an apparatus and a computer-readable medium, respectively, that substantially correspond to the method of Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 1, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least an information processing apparatus to which a plurality of users simultaneously log-on wherein the information processing apparatus receives information regarding the image processing apparatus (status information), and reliably notifies a user for the active session who occupies the display unit of the information processing apparatus of the status information.

In contrast to the present claims, Gallacher is seen to disclose that once a printer completes printing a print job, an identifier is added to an unretrieved print job queue. Notification messages are sent to a notification recipient while the identifier is in the unretrieved print queue. (See Abstract of Gallacher). In Gallacher, retrieval

information such as notification receiver information, alternative notification receiver information, and other notification information can be set in advance. (See, e.g., Figure 5 and paragraphs [0031] and [0032] of Gallacher). Thus, Gallacher is merely seen to disclose that a receiver of a notification can be specified in advance.

Nishiyama is seen to disclose a method of transmitting status data of a printer to a PC. As shown in step S41 of Figure 12, a status data acquisition command is first sent from the PC to the printer. It is then judged whether a display mode for displaying the status data is a manager mode by checking if a user name and password entered at the PC matches a manager name and password for the printer. (See paragraph [0067] of Nishiyama). However, Nishiyama is not seen to disclose or suggest specifying a current active session from among the user sessions after the information regarding the image processing apparatus is received, automatically activating a second display program in the current active session in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus on the display unit occupied in the specified current active session, transmitting, when the current active session is provided for the second user, the received information, not to a display program activated in the user session for the first user, which is a non-active session, but to the second display program that was automatically activated, and displaying, in response to transmitting the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the specified current active session using the second display program.

The Office Action asserts that Calaway and Tsao teach having a plurality of users log-on to a single computer/server simultaneously and allowing each user to

exclusively occupy a display unit of the computer/server. However, even if it is assumed for the sake of argument, that there is an active session and one other user session in Calaway and Tsao, Calaway and Tsao are silent as to specifying the active session so as to transmit and display information regarding an image processing apparatus, received in a user session of a first user activating a first display program, on a display unit occupied in the active session by a second user through a second display program.

Thus, neither Calaway nor Tsao is seen to disclose or suggest specifying a current active session from among the user sessions after the information regarding the image processing apparatus is received, automatically activating a second display program in the current active session in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus on the display unit occupied in the specified current active session, transmitting, when the current active session is provided for the second user, the received information, not to a display program activated in the user session for the first user, which is a non-active session, but to the second display program that was automatically activated, and displaying, in response to transmitting the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the specified current active session using the second display program.

According to the present claims, an information processing apparatus provides a multi-user environment. Namely, a plurality of users can simultaneously log-on to the information processing apparatus and the apparatus can provide the users with respective different user sessions. Accordingly, a plurality of user sessions simultaneously exist for the users.

However, only one of the users can activate a display program for displaying information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus and can exclusively operate the display unit. The user session for such a user is an “active session.” The method recited in Claim 1 includes a specifying step of specifying a current active session from among the user sessions, an activating step of automatically activating a second display program in the specified current active session in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus on the display unit occupied in the specified current active session, and a transmitting step of transmitting, when the specified current active session is provided for the second user, the received information received, not to a display program activated in the user session for the first user, which is currently a non-active session, but to the automatically activated second display program. According to this structure, it is typically possible to specify the active session and the non-active session(s) from among the plurality of user sessions. The method transmits the information regarding the image forming apparatus to the display program automatically activated in the specified active session. In this fashion, the method can notify the user for the current active session of the information regarding the image forming apparatus.

Gallacher specifies in advance an information processing apparatus for information reception and transmits information to the specified apparatus. Accordingly, Gallacher does not need to specify the active session upon receiving the information. Furthermore, an apparatus implementing the method of Claim 1 transmits the information which the information processing apparatus receives from the image forming apparatus to the display program of the information processing apparatus activated in the active session

active at the time of receiving the information, whereas Gallacher transmits information from a server to the information processing apparatus specified in advance. Accordingly, Gallacher does not provide a transmitting step as featured in Claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that Calaway and/or Tsao disclose an active session. While Calaway and Tsao may disclose such a session, they do not disclose or suggest that non-active sessions simultaneously exist with the session. An apparatus implementing the method of Claim 1 overcomes a difficulty in which one active session and at least one non-active session simultaneously exist in a single information processing apparatus. Neither Calaway nor Tsao address specifying the active session from among a plurality of user sessions in order to display the received information.

Parry and Hamada have been reviewed, but are not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway and Tsao. Accordingly, Claims 1, 11, 12 and 15 to 17 are believed to be allowable over the applied art.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the claims, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

All fees believed to be due are being paid concurrently herewith. The Director is hereby authorized to credit any fee overpayment, or charge any fee underpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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